

SECRET
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

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4 MAY 1967



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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Possible Deployment of Soviet
Surface-to-Surface Missiles in
North Vietnam

1. There have been several recent reports that the Soviets intend to increase their military support for the North Vietnamese, possibly to include the introduction of surface-to-surface missiles. If the Soviets did decide to embark on this course, it is our view that some of the weapons involved might be the 150-NM SCUD ballistic missile, the 300-NM SHADDOCK cruise missile, or one of the shorter range coastal defense type missiles. We are also alert to the possibility that the Soviets might deploy longer range missiles, such as the SS-3 or SS-4 to North Vietnam.

2. While the reports we have thus far received are unconfirmed and tenuous, we believe the potential consequences, both military and political, of the undetected deployment of Soviet surface-to-surface missiles to North Vietnam to be so serious that a maximum intelligence collection effort should be undertaken to assure the U.S. is not taken by surprise.

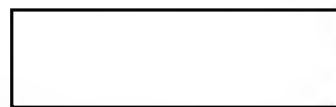
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3. Overhead photography then is our primary asset against this intelligence target. I believe, therefore, that we should take steps to assure that the question of possible deployment of Soviet missiles in North Vietnam is accorded the highest priority

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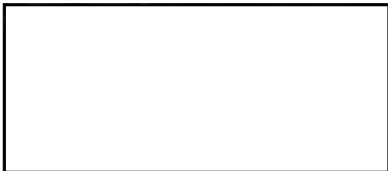


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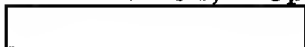
For our overhead photographic assets. This would require the acquisition of a data base line and subsequent periodic surveillance of areas which we consider most likely for the emplacement of such missiles. The collection of this photography is complicated by the probability that Soviet missiles will be deployed in areas of maximum air defense capability, making collection by tactical reconnaissance and drones extremely difficult.

4. I propose, therefore, that our representatives meet to consider this problem and to recommend to us a program for the collection of overhead photography on areas judged to be the most likely for possible deployment of Soviet surface-to-surface missiles in North Vietnam.

SIGNED

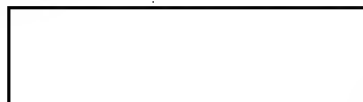
Richard Helms

P.S. Please ask your representative to get in touch with Jack Smith, Deputy Director for Intelligence, on



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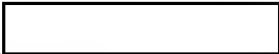

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